

Art Unit: 2800


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Claims 1-10 Cancelled

11. (Amended) An endoscopic imaging system, comprising:
an imaging device for projecting an object image of an object inside a body cavity;
a digital signal converter for converting an image signal sent from said imaging means into a digital signal;
a signal processor for processing said digital signal sent from said digital signal converter;

a discriminating signal appending circuit for appending a discrimination signal to said digital signal processed by said signal processor;

a compression circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said discrimination signal appending circuit, and for compressing said digital signal processed by said signal processor; and

a recording unit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compression circuit on a recording medium.

12. (Amended) An endoscopic imaging system according to claim 11, wherein said discrimination signal is produced according to at least one of a type of imaging device, a type of endoscope, a level of enhancement performed by said signal processor, and data recorded in advance on said recording medium.

13. (Amended) An endoscopic imaging system according to claim 12, wherein said data recorded in advance on said recording medium is medical-field data or patient data.

Claims 14-30 Cancelled

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31. (New) An endoscopic imaging system comprising:
an imaging means for projecting an object image; and
a signal processing means for processing an image signal outputted from said imaging means,
wherein said signal processing means comprises:
a signal processing circuit for processing said image signal outputted from said imaging means to produce a digital signal;
a discrimination signal appending circuit for appending a given discrimination signal to said digital signal produced by said signal processing circuit;
a compressing circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said discrimination signal appending circuit; and
compressing said digital signal produced by said signal processing means; and

a recording circuit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compressing circuit on a recording medium.

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